



New CNO Clark sets course with Fleet and Force Master Chiefs

By JO1 David Luckett, MCPON Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — If there were any questions regarding how the Navy's new top admiral viewed senior enlisted leadership, they've now been answered.

On just his second day in the job Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Vern Clark, took time to discuss his course for the Navy with the Fleet and Force Master Chiefs.

"I want the Navy to know that my second day on the job was spent with you — the senior enlisted leadership of our Navy. I am keenly aware of the importance of your role in helping set the tone and attitudes of our Navy today," Clark told the group.

The 13 master chiefs were in town to participate in a previously scheduled semi-annual Fleet and Force Master Chief conference that Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON), Master Chief Machinist's Mate(SS/SW/AW) Jim Herdt, chairs. The geographically rotating conference was in Washington, D.C., this time, and Adm. Clark didn't want to miss the opportunity for an open exchange of ideas with the Navy's senior enlisted leaders.

"It is extremely important for us to send an accurate message to our Sailors as to what they can expect from their leaders. They must expect the many challenges life as a Sailor in our Navy presents, but they also can

expect the opportunity to show what they can do. We will continually work to provide the tools they need to grow and develop professionally," Clark assured.

Herdt was appreciative for the opportunity, and pointed out the importance of cohesive leadership in keeping the Navy on course. "This was a perfect opportunity for the Navy's senior enlisted leadership to ensure we're providing the appropriate support for our new CNO. Adm. Clark is a very dynamic leader with a great vision for the future of our Navy. We all realize the importance of unified leadership to accomplish the

many real-world missions our Navy faces daily," Herdt explained.

Clark will spend the next couple of weeks communicating his vision and course for the Navy during his tenure. A major part of this course is keeping the purpose of the Navy's existence in our sights.

"We have the best Navy in the history of the world and we're going to stay that way," said Clark. "We all have to remember why we exist as a Navy — to deploy and project a forward American presence. We must understand that everything we do is to make that forward presence the most

capable, combat-ready force possible."

The discussion was an example of how today's Navy leadership views the relationship between the wardroom and chief's mess, according to Herdt.

"Khaki leadership must work in unison to accomplish our Navy's goals," Herdt proclaimed. "At every level: from individual ships, to TYCOMS (type commands), to fleets, to Navy-wide, it's essential that the wardroom and CPO mess operate as a dynamic team to continually pave the path for our Sailors to realize their potential in our Navy."

Turnover



USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) steams along side USS George Washington (CVN 73) while conducting turnover operations in the Indian Ocean. George Washington is heading north to support Operation Southern Watch in the Arabian Gulf. Photo by Chief Photographers Mate Gregory S. McCreash

New debt collection assistance officer program to ease TRICARE credit hassles

By the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (public affairs)

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Department of Defense announced recently a new debt collection assistance officer program to help service members, retirees and their eligible family members with TRICARE-related debt problems.

For the first time, an assistance officer located at each military treatment facility (MTF) and TRICARE lead agent office will be the single point of contact when a TRICARE beneficiary needs help with these kinds of problems.

“We do not want our service members to have the burden of resolving individual claims. They should not have to worry about negotiations with multiple agencies to settle outstanding claims, stressful notices from bill collectors and

sometimes, adverse ratings in their credit reports,” said Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Bernard Rostker.

Identification and training of assistance officers will begin immediately. The new program will begin within 30 days.

Incorrect billing to service members for outstanding medical bills was a key issue at the first Military Family Forum at the Pentagon this past May.

Once contacted by a TRICARE-eligible beneficiary, the debt collection assistance officer will intercede with all agencies involved, including military personnel offices, the MTFs, lead agents, network and non-network providers,



TRICARE Management Activity, managed care contractors and even debt collection agencies when appropriate, to resolve a collection issue arising from a TRICARE claim.

The debt collection assistance officer will research the TRICARE claims history with the priority unit at the claims processor and notify the beneficiary of the resolution. If appropriate, written documentation will be provided for use with national credit reporting companies in removing unwarranted adverse credit information related to TRICARE claims.

Service members in remote locations may contact any debt collection assistance officer who is convenient for them. These points of contact will be identified by the military services prior to implementation of the program.

“Our beneficiaries value their medical care benefit and they have told us on surveys that it is a primary reason for staying in the military,” said Rostker. “Our service members deserve assistance and relief from unwarranted collection actions resulting from unpaid medical claims.”

Seeking immediate help with questions regarding their medical bills remains the TRICARE beneficiary’s best defense against credit problems, according to Rostker. This type of assistance is available at local TRICARE service centers and military treatment facilities. Beneficiaries also can call claims processors using their toll-free telephone numbers.

Additional information about TRICARE claims processing can be found on the Military Health System/TRICARE web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>.

Piggyback Ride



Engineers check the positioning of the coastal minehunters USS Raven (MHC 61), foreground, and USS Cardinal (MHC 60) on the deck of the commercial motor vessel Blue Marlin following de-ballasting operations that lifted the ships onto Blue Marlin's deck. On the back of Blue Marlin, Cardinal and Raven leave their current homeport for a month-long transit to the Arabian Gulf for their new duty assignment to the United States 5th Fleet. Cardinal and Raven will join USS Ardent (MCM 12) and USS Dextrous (MCM 13), which have been forward-deployed to the Arabian Gulf since 1996. U.S. Navy photo by Lt.j.g. Chuck Bell

Navy offers larger summer enlistment bonus

By the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (public affairs)

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy is offering a new enlistment bonus round for the summer months for recruits who sign an enlistment contract effective this past July, and leave for recruit training by September 29. This bonus is an increase over previous cash amounts. It is also an entirely new bonus for occupational specialties that weren't previously eligible.

The improved enlistment bonus will be paid upon completion of all training and designation in the skill for which qualified recruits enlist. Bonus requirements include a qualifying test score for eligible occupational specialty as well as a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma.

Bonus amounts have been substantially increased. A recruit entering the nuclear field, for example, can now receive a \$12,000 bonus, up from \$8,000. Overall, 46 percent of the occupational fields have a new bonus and 39 percent have a bonus increase.

As previously announced, the Navy values educated young people who consider joining the Navy, offering an additional enlistment bonus for college credit. When combined with the improved summer bonus, total cash incentives can reach up to \$20,000. Specific amounts being offered for educational accomplishment are as follows:

- Associate's degree — \$4,000

- Bachelor's degree — \$8,000

- 1 year of vocational technical education — \$2,000

- 2 years of vocational technical education — \$4,000

- 24-47 semester hours (or equivalent) of college — \$2,000

- 48-71 semester hours (or equivalent) of college — \$3,000

- 72-95 semester hours (or equivalent) of college — \$5,000

- 96+ semester hours (or equivalent) of college — \$6,000

Recruits may also qualify for additional monetary incentives, such as the Montgomery GI Bill and the Navy College Fund worth up to \$50,000. The enlistment

bonus can be elected in combination with the Navy College Fund at certain levels.

For more information about Navy opportunities, individuals are encouraged to contact their local Navy recruiting station, or call (800) USA-NAVY.

Information is also available by visiting the web site <http://www.navyjobs.com>.

Navy launches bilingual Vieques web site

By the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (public affairs)

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy announced July 20 that it has established a bilingual web site dedicated to operations on Vieques and its relationship with the island municipality off Puerto Rico's East Coast.

The web site, <http://www.navyvieques.navy.mil>, was constructed as a public service to provide accurate information about Navy operations on Vieques Island and provide a brief history and insight into the unique nature of this island and its relationship with the U.S. Navy.

For more information, contact Lt. Jeff Gordon, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, at (787) 865-5691.

Did you close the cockpit?



Sailors conduct training on the techniques used in aircraft fire fighting on the flight deck of USS Enterprise (CVN 65). Enterprise is currently underway in the Atlantic conducting Carrier Qualifications.

Photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Brian C. McLaughlin

BUPERS Access is the key to advanced notification of promotion and advancement

By Lt. j.g. Eric Petersen, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — As a result of a new notification process, active-duty enlisted and officer selection board results are now being distributed through "BUPERS Access" 48 hours before being released to the fleet by message. Distribution is limited to flag officers, commanding officers, officers in charge and command master chiefs (enlisted boards only) for their respective unit identification codes (UICs).

This Chief of Naval Personnel initiative gives senior leadership the opportunity to provide appropriate personal and career counseling to all candidates.

BUPERS Access is available at the BUPERS web site at <http://www.bupers.navy.mil>.

The system was first used several weeks ago to distribute the results of the FY01 Active E-8 Selection Board, as well as the O-5 Line Selection and O-4 Line Continuation Boards. In general, the response to this newest addition to BUPERS Access has been positive.

"At first, some commands were having trouble with this new procedure; however, as folks have begun to understand the system, we are seeing more and more positive responses from the fleet," said Capt. Tom Broderick, director of personnel progression, performance and security at Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn.

Flag officers, commanding officers and officers-in-charge can obtain 48-hour advanced access to

only those UICs for which they are the direct reporting senior, in accordance with the fitness report instruction. Command master chiefs will only have access to results from enlisted boards. Account access for selection boards should be automatic for those authorized users. For commands without CMCs, senior enlisted advisors will be granted access based on individual requests faxed or mailed to the Navy Personnel Command (PERS-455E).

The new notification process is one of the most recent additions to the features available on BUPERS Access. The new web-based system, which uses a secure login and encryption similar to that used by credit card companies, grew out of the need to replace the old BUPERS Access Bulletin Board System, which was not Y2K compliant.

A team at Navy Personnel Command, including Chief Information Systems Technician (ITC) Charles Rhodes, IT1 John Grace, IT2(SW) Shea Ross, ITC(SW) Daniel Koontz, Beverly Essiet, and Jeremy Lemmon, took up the challenge and developed the new BUPERS Access. The vastly improved BUPERS Access was put on line Dec. 15, 1999, to replace the older system.

All active-duty Navy personnel already have a BUPERS Access account and can view a vast array of personal information including view-only JASS, advancement results, order status, SRB status, application

status, duty preference, swaps and selection board information. Features that will be added in the future include applications for the Overseas Tour Extension Incentive Program (OTEIP), electronic submission of personal documents and on-line display of orders.

Establishing an account is easy, and only requires

personnel to enter their social security number and birth date.

Commands are strongly encouraged to establish and test accounts for all UICs as soon as possible to beat the last minute rush and avoid difficulties during the upcoming pre-release of the

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Navy/Marine Corps News broadcasts video streamed on LIFELines 2000

By LIFELines Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — If you have access to a computer, you now have access 24 hours a day, seven days a week to one of the Navy's premier internal information programs, Navy/Marine Corps News.

LIFELines2000, the Navy's award-winning quality of life services network, is now video streaming the weekly television news program on its Internet site at <http://www.lifelines2000.org>.

Once on the LIFELines2000 site, simply click on the "QOL Broadcast Network" icon to view streamed-video segments of the program.

For the first time in the history of Navy broadcasting, deployed Sailors and Marines and their families will be able to view the latest version of the Navy/Marine Corps News

on the Internet.

To assure the user has sufficient bandwidth to view the segments, each story is streamed individually. However, users may also see the Navy/Marine Corps News program in its entirety.

This new service will also soon be available on the Navy's main web site at <http://www.navy.mil>, and on the Naval Media Center's web site at <http://www.mediacen.navy.mil>. Navy/Marine Corps News is a product of the Naval Media Center.

Those interested in more details about LIFELines2000 should contact Capt. Bill Hendrix at hendrix.william@hq.navy.mil or by phone (202) 433-3974, or Cmdr. Rudy Brewington at brewington.rudolph@hq.navy.mil or (202) 433-3865.

Navy to hold "Knowledge Fair"

By the Navy News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. (NNS) — Undersecretary of the Navy Jerry Hultin will host a Department of the Navy "Knowledge Fair" here on August 1. The purpose of this fair is to showcase the many knowledge management products being developed and implemented across the Navy.

In a message released from the Office of the Secretary of the Navy, SECNAV Richard Danzig stated that the fair will serve "as a forum for knowledge sharing and will give our enterprise a chance to see and hear firsthand about the types of initiatives that are transforming the Department of the Navy into a knowledge-centric organization and enabling our strategy of knowledge superiority."

Over 50 initiatives from around the Navy will be showcased at the fair to be held at the Crystal City Hyatt Regency

Hotel from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Exhibits at the fair will feature repositories to capture expertise and successful practices, as well as efforts to encourage sharing, collaboration and development of communities. Tools and models to facilitate knowledge creation and decision making of competencies will also be on display. Navy/Marine Corps Intranet portal concepts will also be demonstrated.

Each of the events will be videotaped and captured on compact disc for distribution around the Department of the Navy.

For more information about the Navy's Knowledge Fair, go to the web address <http://63.248.99.131/FAIR2000>. If any command wishes to showcase a knowledge-sharing initiative but has not responded to a prior inquiry, please contact Capt. James Kantner at (703) 601-0047, or by e-mail to kantner.james@hq.navy.mil.

In naval history: July 30, 1945

The heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis (CA 35) was torpedoed and sunk in the Philippine Sea by a Japanese submarine, I-58. USS Indianapolis had just departed Guam two days earlier on an unescorted mission to Leyte Gulf.

The ship's loss went unnoticed until a group of survivors were accidentally spotted by a patrol aircraft on Aug. 2. Only 316 out of 1,199 crew survived.

During a general court martial, the captain of the USS Indianapolis, Capt. Charles B. McVay III, was acquitted on one charge, but he was convicted on the charge of failing to set a "zigzag" course in an area known for Japanese submarines.

Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal later approved of recommendations to remit the sentence of McVay in its entirety, which released him from arrest and restored him to duty.

Visit the Naval Historical Center web site at <http://www.history.navy.mil/> for more information about naval history.

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Active O-4 Line and E-7 Selection Board results. While the typical response time for account establishment requests and log-in trouble calls is 48-72 hours, commands should avoid any possible last-minute glitches by testing their access to the system ahead of time.

"This new system is a great way to ensure Sailors have ready access to

personal career information, and it gives Navy leaders the information they need to counsel and guide their people with a personal touch," said Rear Adm. James B. Hinkle, commander, Navy Personnel Command.

For more information, see NAVADMIN 173/00, which is available at the BUPERS web site at <http://www.bupers.navy.mil>.

Submarine Centennial history: Aug. 3, 1970

USS James Madison (SSBN 627) conducted the first submerged launch of a Poseidon (C3) missile. The Poseidon (C3) missile was 30,000 pounds heavier than its predecessor, the Polaris (A3) and was deployed on 31 of the Navy's 41 fleet ballistic missile submarines.

For additional Centennial information and events, visit the Navy home page at <http://www.navy.mil> and click on "Submarine Centennial."

On Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- Adm. Jay Johnson retires as Chief of Naval Operations and passes command of the Navy to Adm. Vern Clark;
- Hear from Adm. Clark about his plans for the Navy as the new CNO;
- Go aboard USS Seattle (AOE 3), serving the fleet for more than three decades;
- Navy SEALs in San Diego demonstrate their hi-tech capabilities to the community.

Compiled on tape #2000-31, the show is on its way to the fleet now.



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